

ASSISTANCE FOR MINNESOTA BUSINESSES



RESOURCES AND INFORMATION TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS GROW

Minnesota is a great place to do business – offering all the advantages that made us America’s Top State for Business (CNBC, 2015). Among other things, the state ranks high in education; quality of life; infrastructure; and technology and innovation.

It’s not easy to start, manage or expand a business. Having professional guidance at the right time can save time and money – and prevent headaches. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) offers information, programs and services to help businesses succeed.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

DEED offers help for businesses at all stages.

mn.gov/deed/business

Small Business Assistance Office – provides in-depth information, assistance and publications on startup, operation or expansion of a small business, as well as employment law, intellectual property, franchising, electronic commerce and more topics. mn.gov/deed/sbao

Small Business Development Centers – provide no cost, one-on-one consulting on topics including business planning, financing, operations and marketing at 29 locations statewide.

mn.gov/deed/sbdc

Location assistance services can help you find the right land, building or community for your business startup, expansion or relocation. Minnesota has more than 30 shovel-ready certified development sites as well as a GIS mapping-based database of available sites and buildings around the state with demographic information. mn.gov/deed/locating

Minnesota Business First Stop streamlines the development process for complex business startups, expansions or relocations that involve financing, licensing, permitting and regulatory issues that overlap multiple state agencies.

mn.gov/deed/firststop

Made in Minnesota is a manufacturers’ supply chain database that makes it easy for Minnesota companies to find – and be found by – home-state suppliers that are a perfect fit.

mn.gov/deed/madeinmn

BUSINESS FINANCING

For business financing, call 651-259-7430, 1-800-657-3858.

mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business

Minnesota Investment Fund – provides up to \$500,000 in loans to help companies expand, add workers and retain high-quality jobs.

Minnesota Job Creation Fund – provides up to \$1 million after specified job creation and capital investment goals are achieved.

Targeted business programs include:

- **Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneurs Loan Program** – Loans of up to \$150,000 to small businesses owned by minorities, women, veterans, persons with disabilities and low-income individuals.
- **Minnesota Indian Business Loan Program**
- **Minnesota Reservist and Veteran Business Loan Program**

Small Business Development Loan Program – Loans for small businesses creating new jobs.

State Small Business Credit Initiative – helps small businesses get access to the capital they need to grow through various programs:

- **Emerging Entrepreneurs Fund**
- **Capital Access Program**
- **Angel Loan Fund**

Tax credit programs include:

- **Angel Tax Credit Program**
- **Research and Development Tax Credit Program**
- **Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program**

Industry-specific incentives include:

- **Data Center Tax Incentives**
- **Renewable Energy Production Incentive**
- **Minnesota Minerals 21st Century Fund**

Community development funding includes:

- **Redevelopment and Site-Clean-up grant and loan funds**
- **Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Program**
- **Greater Minnesota Public Infrastructure Grant Program**

EXPORTING ASSISTANCE

The Minnesota Trade Office (MTO), a part of DEED, assists Minnesota companies in exporting their products and services. mn.gov/deed/trade

- Trade assistance helpline: 651-259-7498
- Export counseling and technical assistance
- Export education and training
- Trade missions, trade shows and other events
- STEP Grant Program for export training and development activities

WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

DEED provides a broad range of workforce assistance to employers at mn.gov/deed/business/finding-workers

Recruitment – MinnesotaWorks.net allows businesses to post job openings at no fee and search for qualified candidates locally or statewide. MinnesotaWorks.net

Training – Minnesota has various programs to help employers train or retrain workers, including:

- **Minnesota Job Skills Partnership** provides educational institutions up to \$400,000 to develop customized training in partnership with businesses. mn.gov/deed/mjsp
- **Minnesota Job Training Incentive Program** offers training grants to new or expanding businesses in Greater Minnesota that are adding at least three new jobs.

Business Services Representatives – help companies find qualified workers, analyze hard-to-fill positions, write effective job postings, obtain tax credits for new hires and more. Services are available at no fee. mn.gov/deed/bsr



Employment Specialists – help businesses streamline the process of finding, recruiting and hiring workers with disabilities. Services are offered at no cost to businesses.

Downsizing – When businesses are faced with layoffs or plant closings, the Dislocated Worker program provides assistance with training and employment services. mn.gov/deed/dw

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Timely, dependable information is critical in business decision making. DEED offers a broad range of useful information at no charge.

Data Center – offers information about key industries and sectors, current and emerging business issues, workforce and economic trends as well as state and regional labor markets and salary information. Our labor market economists and analysts are available to answer questions. mn.gov/deed/data

Compare Minnesota – this online database offers statistical comparisons between Minnesota and other states, plus comparisons between the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area and the nation's largest metro areas. mn.gov/deed/compare

Publications and Business Guidebooks – We offer a broad range of business guidebooks and publications at no charge. You'll find links to "Publications" and "Business Guidebooks" at the bottom of the DEED home page at mn.gov/deed

Unemployment Insurance – DEED administers the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Program and can help you get the information you need to know as an employer. It also offers information about layoff alternatives, such as the **Shared Work Program**. uimn.org

International Market Research and Trade Resources – DEED's business research library, staffed by professional research librarians, has online resources and is open by appointment. mn.gov/deed/business/exporting/research